

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AF-10 DRC-01 /159 W

----- 013659

R 180920Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4860

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 2060

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MT

SUBJ: ARABS IN MALTA

1. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR BENYACOV, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM HOME LEAVE IN ISRAEL, TOLD US OCT 17 THAT HE AND HIS SECURITY OFFICER HAVE NOTICED THAT NORMALLY NUMEROUS COLONY OF ARABS ON MALTA HAD SUDDENLY DIMINISHED TO ALMOST NOTHING.

2. AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT, THERE ARE NORMALLY SEVERAL HUNDRED YOUNG ARABS, USUALLY ASSUMED TO BE VACATIONING FROM LIBYA TO ENJOY LIQUOR AND GIRLS NOT AVAILABLE AT HOME. THEY HAVE RECENTLY BEEN SUBJECT TO ANGRY LETTERS TO EDITORS IN NEWSPAPERS COMPLAINING ABOUT THEIR OBJECTABLE NIGHTTIME ACTIVITIES.

3. BENYACOV BELEIVES REASONS FOR DEPARTURE DURING LAST WEEK MAY INCLUDE A) RECALL BY GOVERNMENTS IN LIGHT OF WAR, B) THAT GOM MIGHT POSSIBLY HAVE ORDERED THEM OUT FOR ACTIVITIES MENTIONED ABOVE OR C) LESS LIKELY RAMADAN.

4. BENYACOV ALSO CLAIMS THAT THESE ARABS IN FACT INCLUDE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF SYRIAN AND IRAQUIS. THIS CLAIM BASED PARTLY ON INFORMATION FROM MALTA
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JUDGE WHO TOLD BENYACOV THAT THEN ARABS ARE BROUGHT

INTO HIS COURT FOR VARIOUS PRESONS THEY PROVE OFTEN
TO BE FROM SYRIA OR IRAQ.

5. COMMENT: WOULD SEEM LIKELY THAT PRINCIPAL
REASON FOR DEPARTURE OF ARABS IS RELATED TO MIDDLE
EAST WAR.
GETZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VALLET02060
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS GETZ
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731023/aaaaaqmi.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Sep-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <26-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARABS IN MALTA
TAGS: PINS, MT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005